



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Jim Letten

Eastern District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAE

CONTACT: KATHY ENGLISH
PHONE: (504) 680-3068
FAX: (504) 589-4978

SLIDELL WOMAN INDICTED FOR DEFRAUDING AMERICAN RED CROSS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA -RENADA THORNTON, age 27, a resident of Slidell, LA, was indicted today by a federal grand jury on six counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud relating to a series of fraudulent applications for financial assistance that she submitted to the American Red Cross between September, 2005 and December, 2005, announced U. S. Attorney Jim Letten.

According to court documents, **RENADA THORNTON**, applied for and received disaster assistance funds from the Red Cross 14 times during a roughly two month period. The Red Cross made disaster assistance money of up to \$1565 available to those affected by the hurricanes of 2005 on a one-time only basis. **THORNTON** allegedly repeatedly applied for these funds throughout the early fall of 2005, each time indicating that she had not yet received any money at all from the Red Cross. In all, **THORNTON** is charged with fraudulently obtaining over \$18,000 from the American Red Cross. According to documents filed today by the United States Attorney, **THORNTON** successfully executed the scheme at Red Cross facilities in throughout Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

If convicted, **THORNTON** faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and is subject to a fine of up to \$250,000 for each count in the indictment.

The United States Attorney cautions that an indictment is only an allegation and is not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. **THORNTON** is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Dan Friel.